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# Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

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The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is an inter-governmental forum for 21 member economies in the Pacific Rim that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>[2]</sup> Following the success of ASEAN's series of post-ministerial conferences launched in the mid-1980s,<sup>[3]</sup> APEC started in 1989,<sup>[4]</sup> in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world; it aimed to establish new markets for agricultural products and raw materials beyond Europe.<sup>[5]</sup> Headquartered in Singapore,<sup>[6]</sup> APEC is recognized as one of the highest-level multilateral blocs and oldest forums in the Asia-Pacific region,<sup>[7]</sup> and exerts a significant global influence.<sup>[8][9][10][11]</sup>

The heads of government of all APEC members except the Republic of China (which is represented by a ministerial-level official under the name Chinese Taipei as economic leader)<sup>[12]</sup> attend an annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting. The location of the meeting rotates annually among the member economies, and a famous tradition, followed for most (but not all) summits, involves the attending leaders dressing in a national costume of the host country. APEC has three official observers: the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Secretariat, the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council and the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat.<sup>[13]</sup> APEC's Host Economy of the Year is considered to be invited in the first place for geographical representation to attend G20 meetings following G20 guidelines.<sup>[14][15]</sup>

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## History [ edit ]

The APEC was initially inspired when ASEAN's series of post-ministerial conferences, launched in the mid-1980s, had demonstrated the feasibility and value of regular conferences among ministerial-level representatives of both developed and developing economies. By 1996, the post ministerial conferences had expanded to embrace 12 members (the then six members of ASEAN and its six dialogue partners). The developments led Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke to believe the necessity of region-wide co-operation on economic matters. In January 1989, Bob Hawke called for more effective economic co-operation across the Pacific Rim region. This led to

## Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation



## Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation



## Member economies of APEC

Headquarters	Queenstown, Singapore
Type	Economic meeting
Membership	21 economies <span>[hide]</span> <div><div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Australia</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Brunei</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Canada</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Chile</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>China</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Hong Kong</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Indonesia</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Japan</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Malaysia</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Mexico</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>New Zealand</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Papua New Guinea</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Peru</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Philippines</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Russia</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Singapore</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>South Korea</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Taiwan<sup>[1]</sup></div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Thailand</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>United States</div></div><div><span></span></div></div><div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Vietnam</div></div><div><span></span></div></div></div></div>

Leaders	
<div><div>Chairperson</div><div>Executive Director</div></div>	<div>Muhyiddin Yassin (2020)</div> <div>Rebecca Fatima Santa Maria</div>
Establishment	1989

Website  
[www.apec.org](http://www.apec.org)

the first meeting of APEC in the Australian capital of [Canberra](#) in November, chaired by Australian Foreign Affairs Minister [Gareth Evans](#). Attended by ministers from twelve countries, the meeting concluded with commitments for future annual meetings in Singapore and South Korea. Ten months later, 12 Asia-Pacific economies met in Canberra, Australia, to establish APEC. The APEC Secretariat, based in Singapore, was established to co-ordinate the activities of the organisation.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

During the meeting in 1994 in [Bogor](#), Indonesia, APEC leaders adopted the Bogor Goals that aim for free and open trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific by 2010 for industrialised economies and by 2020 for developing economies. In 1995, APEC established a business advisory body named the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC), composed of three business executives from each member's economy.

In April 2001, the APEC, in collaboration with five other international organisations (Eurostat, IEA, OLADE, OPEC and the UNSD) launched the Joint Oil Data Exercise, which in 2005 became the [Joint Organisations Data Initiative](#) (JODI).



ABC news report of the first APEC meeting in Canberra, November 1989, featuring delegates watching the [Melbourne Cup](#).

## Meeting locations [\[ edit \]](#)

The location of the meeting is rotated annually among the members.

Year <span>↕</span>	# <span>↕</span>	Dates <span>↕</span>	Country <span>↕</span>	City <span>↕</span>	Host Leader <span>↕</span>
1989	<a href="#">1st</a>	6–7 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Canberra</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Bob Hawke</a>
1990	<a href="#">2nd</a>	29–31 July	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Singapore</a>	<a href="#">Singapore</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Lee Kuan Yew</a>
1991	<a href="#">3rd</a>	12–14 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">South Korea</a>	<a href="#">Seoul</a>	President <a href="#">Roh Tae-woo</a>
1992	<a href="#">4th</a>	10–11 September	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Thailand</a>	<a href="#">Bangkok</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Anand Panyarachun</a>
1993	<a href="#">5th</a>	19–20 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">United States</a>	<a href="#">Blake Island</a>	President <a href="#">Bill Clinton</a>
1994	<a href="#">6th</a>	15–16 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Indonesia</a>	<a href="#">Bogor</a>	President <a href="#">Suharto</a>
1995	<a href="#">7th</a>	18–19 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Japan</a>	<a href="#">Osaka</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Tomiichi Murayama</a>
1996	<a href="#">8th</a>	24–25 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Philippines</a>	<a href="#">Subic</a>	President <a href="#">Fidel Ramos</a>
1997	<a href="#">9th</a>	24–25 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Canada</a>	<a href="#">Vancouver</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Jean Chrétien</a>
1998	<a href="#">10th</a>	17–18 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Malaysia</a>	<a href="#">Kuala Lumpur</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Mahathir Mohamad</a>
1999	<a href="#">11th</a>	12–13 September	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">New Zealand</a>	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Jenny Shipley</a>
2000	<a href="#">12th</a>	15–16 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Brunei</a>	<a href="#">Bandar Seri Begawan</a>	Sultan <a href="#">Hassanal Bolkiah</a>
2001	<a href="#">13th</a>	20–21 October	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">China</a>	<a href="#">Shanghai</a>	President <a href="#">Jiang Zemin</a>
2002	<a href="#">14th</a>	26–27 October	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Mexico</a>	<a href="#">Los Cabos</a>	President <a href="#">Vicente Fox</a>
2003	<a href="#">15th</a>	20–21 October	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Thailand</a>	<a href="#">Bangkok</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Thaksin Shinawatra</a>
2004	<a href="#">16th</a>	20–21 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Chile</a>	<a href="#">Santiago</a>	President <a href="#">Ricardo Lagos</a>
2005	<a href="#">17th</a>	18–19 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">South Korea</a>	<a href="#">Busan</a>	President <a href="#">Roh Moo-hyun</a>
2006	<a href="#">18th</a>	18–19 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Vietnam</a>	<a href="#">Hanoi</a>	President <a href="#">Nguyễn Minh Triết</a>
2007	<a href="#">19th</a>	8–9 September	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Sydney</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">John Howard</a>
2008	<a href="#">20th</a>	22–23 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Peru</a>	<a href="#">Lima</a>	President <a href="#">Alan Garcia Perez</a>
2009	<a href="#">21st</a>	14–15 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Singapore</a>	<a href="#">Singapore</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Lee Hsien Loong</a>
2010	<a href="#">22nd</a>	13–14 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Japan</a>	<a href="#">Yokohama</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Naoto Kan</a>
2011	<a href="#">23rd</a>	12–13 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">United States</a>	<a href="#">Honolulu</a>	President <a href="#">Barack Obama</a>
2012	<a href="#">24th</a>	9–10 September	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Russia</a>	<a href="#">Vladivostok</a>	President <a href="#">Vladimir Putin</a>
2013	<a href="#">25th</a>	5–7 October	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Indonesia</a>	<a href="#">Bali</a>	President <a href="#">Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono</a>
2014	<a href="#">26th</a>	10–11 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">China</a>	<a href="#">Beijing</a>	President <a href="#">Xi Jinping</a>
2015	<a href="#">27th</a>	18–19 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Philippines</a>	<a href="#">Pasay</a>	President <a href="#">Benigno Aquino III</a>
2016	<a href="#">28th</a>	19–20 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Peru</a>	<a href="#">Lima</a>	President <a href="#">Pedro Pablo Kuczynski</a>
2017	<a href="#">29th</a>	10–11 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Vietnam</a>	<a href="#">Da Nang</a>	President <a href="#">Trần Đại Quang</a>
2018	<a href="#">30th</a>	17–18 November	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Papua New Guinea</a>	<a href="#">Port Moresby</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Peter O'Neill</a>
2019	<a href="#">31st</a>	16–17 November (cancelled)	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Chile</a>	<a href="#">Santiago</a>	President <a href="#">Sebastián Piñera</a>
2020	<a href="#">32nd</a>	<i>November</i>	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">Malaysia</a>	<a href="#">Kuala Lumpur</a>	Prime Minister <a href="#">Muhyiddin Yassin</a>
2021	<a href="#">33rd</a>	<i>November</i>	<span><span></span></span> <a href="#">New Zealand</a>	<a href="#">Auckland</a>	Prime Minister

Year	#	Dates	Country	City	Host Leader
2022	34th	TBA	 Thailand	Bangkok	Prime Minister
2023	35th	TBA	 South Korea	TBA	



## Member economies [\[ edit \]](#)

APEC currently has 21 members. However, the criterion for membership is that the member is a separate *economy*, rather than a state. As a result, APEC uses the term *member economies* rather than *member countries* to refer to its members. One result of this criterion is that membership of the forum includes Taiwan (officially the Republic of China, participating under the name "Chinese Taipei") alongside People's Republic of China (see [Cross-Strait relations](#)), as well as Hong Kong, which entered APEC as a British colony but it is now a [Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China](#). APEC also includes three official observers: [ASEAN](#), the [Pacific Islands Forum](#) and the [Pacific Economic Cooperation Council](#).<sup>[2]</sup>

Member economie(s)	Name as used in APEC	Date of accession	GDP (PPP) in 2017 (Millions of Int\$)
 Australia	Australia	November 1989	1,235,297
 Brunei	Brunei Darussalam	November 1989	32,958
 Canada	Canada	November 1989	1,763,785
 Indonesia	Indonesia	November 1989	3,242,966
 Japan	Japan	November 1989	5,405,072
 South Korea	Republic of Korea	November 1989	2,026,651
 Malaysia	Malaysia	November 1989	926,081
 New Zealand	New Zealand	November 1989	185,748
 Philippines	The Philippines	November 1989	874,518
 Singapore	Singapore	November 1989	513,744
 Thailand	Thailand	November 1989	1,228,941
 United States	The United States	November 1989	19,362,129
 Taiwan	Chinese Taipei <sup>[a]</sup>	November 1991	1,175,308
 Hong Kong	Hong Kong, China <sup>[16]</sup>	November 1991	453,019
 China	People's Republic of China	November 1991	13,457,000
 Mexico	Mexico	November 1993	2,406,087
 Papua New Guinea	Papua New Guinea	November 1993	30,839
 Chile	Chile	November 1994	452,095
 Peru	Peru	November 1998	424,639



Former South Korean President [Roh Moo-hyun](#) with Japanese Prime Minister [Shinzō Abe](#) and Former U.S. President [George W. Bush](#) at APEC 2006 in [Hanoi](#), Vietnam.

Member economie(s) ◆	Name as used in APEC ◆	Date of accession ◆	GDP (PPP) in 2017 (Millions of Int\$) ◆
 <a href="#">Russia</a>	Russia	November 1998	4,000,096
 <a href="#">Vietnam</a>	Viet Nam	November 1998	643,902

## Leaders [\[ edit \]](#)

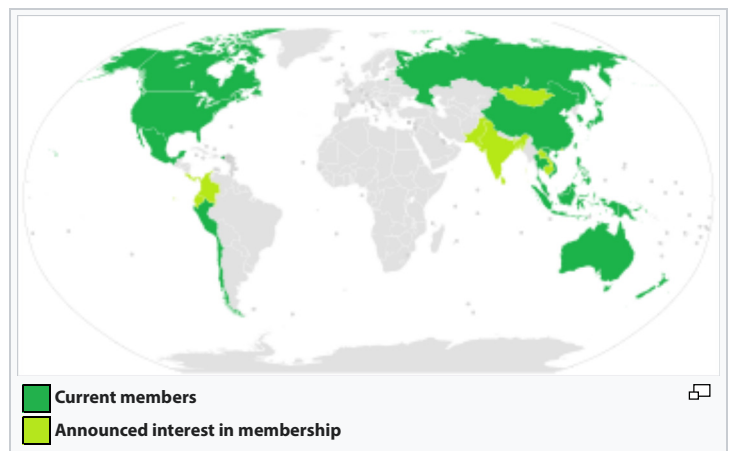
Member ◆	Leader position ◆	State leader ◆
 <a href="#">Australia</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Scott Morrison</a>
 <a href="#">Brunei</a>	<a href="#">Sultan</a>	<a href="#">Hassanal Bolkiah</a>
 <a href="#">Canada</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Justin Trudeau</a>
 <a href="#">Chile</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Sebastián Piñera</a>
 <a href="#">China</a>	<a href="#">President</a> <sup>[note 1]</sup>	<a href="#">Xi Jinping</a>
 <a href="#">Hong Kong</a>	<a href="#">Chief Executive</a>	<a href="#">Carrie Lam</a>
 <a href="#">Indonesia</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Joko Widodo</a>
 <a href="#">Japan</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Shinzō Abe</a>
 <a href="#">South Korea</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Moon Jae-in</a>
 <a href="#">Malaysia</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Muhyiddin Yassin</a>
 <a href="#">Mexico</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Andrés Manuel López Obrador</a>
 <a href="#">New Zealand</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Jacinda Ardern</a>
 <a href="#">Papua New Guinea</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">James Marape</a>
 <a href="#">Peru</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Martín Vizcarra</a>
 <a href="#">Philippines</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Rodrigo Duterte</a>
 <a href="#">Russia</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Vladimir Putin</a>
 <a href="#">Singapore</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Lee Hsien Loong</a>
 <a href="#">Taiwan</a>	<a href="#">President/Presidential Envoy</a>	<a href="#">Tsai Ing-Wen (represented by Morris Chang)</a> <sup>[a]</sup>
 <a href="#">Thailand</a>	<a href="#">Prime Minister</a>	<a href="#">Prayut Chan-o-cha</a>
 <a href="#">United States</a>	<a href="#">President</a>	<a href="#">Donald Trump</a>
 <a href="#">Vietnam</a>	<a href="#">President</a> <sup>[note 2]</sup>	<a href="#">Nguyễn Phú Trọng</a>

## Possible enlargement [\[ edit \]](#)

India has requested membership in APEC, and received initial support from the United States, Japan,<sup>[17]</sup> Australia and Papua New Guinea.<sup>[18]</sup> Officials have decided not to allow India to join for various reasons, considering that India does not border the Pacific Ocean, which all current members do.<sup>[19]</sup> However, India was invited to be an observer for the first time in November 2011.<sup>[20]</sup>

Bangladesh,<sup>[21]</sup> Pakistan,<sup>[21]</sup> Sri Lanka,<sup>[21]</sup> Macau,<sup>[21]</sup> Mongolia,<sup>[21]</sup> Laos,<sup>[21]</sup> Cambodia,<sup>[22]</sup> Costa Rica,<sup>[23]</sup> Colombia,<sup>[23][24]</sup> Panama,<sup>[23]</sup> and Ecuador,<sup>[25]</sup> are among a dozen other economies that have applied for membership in APEC. Colombia applied for APEC's membership as early as in 1995, but

its bid was halted as the organisation stopped accepting new members from 1993 to 1996,<sup>[26]</sup> and the moratorium was further prolonged to 2007 due to the [1997 Asian Financial Crisis](#). [Guam](#) has also been actively seeking a separate membership, citing the example of Hong Kong, but the request is opposed by the United States, which currently represents Guam.



## Business facilitation [\[ edit \]](#)

APEC has long been at the forefront of reform efforts in the area of business facilitation. Between 2002 and 2006 the costs of

business transactions across the region was reduced by 6%, thanks to the APEC Trade Facilitation Action Plan (TFAPI). Between 2007 and 2010, APEC hopes to achieve an additional 5% reduction in business transaction costs. To this end, a new Trade Facilitation Action Plan has been endorsed. According to a 2008 research brief published by the [World Bank](#) as part of its Trade Costs and Facilitation Project, increasing transparency in the region's trading system is critical if APEC is to meet its Bogor Goal targets.<sup>[27]</sup> The [APEC Business Travel Card](#), a [travel document](#) for visa-free business travel within the region is one of the concrete measures to facilitate business. In May 2010 Russia joined the scheme, thus completing the circle.<sup>[28]</sup>

### Proposed FTAAP [\[ edit \]](#)

APEC first formally started discussing the concept of a Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP) at its summit in 2006 in Hanoi. However, the proposal for such an area has been around since at least 1966 and Japanese economist [Kiyoshi Kojima](#) <sup>[ja]</sup>'s proposal for a Pacific Free Trade agreement proposal. While it gained little traction, the idea led to the formation of [Pacific Trade and Development Conference](#) and then the [Pacific Economic Cooperation Council](#) in 1980 and then APEC in 1989.

In the wake of the 2006 summit, economist C. Fred Bergsten advocated a Free Trade Agreement of Asia-Pacific, including the United States amongst the proposed parties to any agreement at that time.<sup>[29]</sup> His ideas convinced the APEC Business Advisory Council to support this concept. Relatedly, [ASEAN](#) and existing [free trade agreement](#) (FTA) partners are negotiating as [Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership](#) (RCEP), not officially including Russia.<sup>[30]</sup> The [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) (TPP) without China or Russia involved has become the US-promoted trade negotiation in the region. At the APEC summit in Beijing in 2014, the three plans were all in discussion.<sup>[31]</sup> President Obama hosted a TPP meeting at the US Embassy in Beijing in advance of the APEC gathering.<sup>[32]</sup>

The proposal for a FTAAP arose due to the lack of progress in the [Doha round](#) of [World Trade Organization](#) negotiations, and as a way to overcome the "noodle bowl" effect created by overlapping and conflicting elements of the copious free trade agreements – there were approximately 60 free trade agreements in 2007, with an additional 117 in the process of negotiation in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>[33]</sup> In 2012, ASEAN+6 countries alone had 339 free trade agreements – many of which were bilateral.<sup>[b]</sup>

The FTAAP is more ambitious in scope than the Doha round, which limits itself to reducing trade restrictions. The FTAAP would create a free trade zone that would considerably expand commerce and economic growth in the region.<sup>[33][35]</sup> The economic expansion and growth in trade could exceed the expectations of other regional free trade areas such as the [ASEAN Plus Three](#) (ASEAN + China, South Korea and Japan).<sup>[36]</sup> Some criticisms include that the diversion of trade within APEC members would create trade imbalances, market conflicts and complications with nations of other regions.<sup>[35]</sup> The development of the FTAAP is expected to take many years, involving essential studies, evaluations and negotiations between member economies.<sup>[33]</sup> It is also affected by the absence of political will and popular agitations and lobbying against free trade in domestic politics.<sup>[33][37]</sup>

At the 2014 APEC summit in [Beijing](#), APEC leaders agreed to launch "a collective strategic study" on the FTAAP and instruct officials to undertake the study, consult stakeholders and report the result by the end of 2016.<sup>[38]</sup> APEC Executive Director Alan Bollard revealed in the Elite Talk show that FTAAP will be APEC's big goal out into the future.<sup>[39]</sup>

The [Trans-Pacific Partnership](#) includes 12 of the 21 APEC members and has provisions for the accession of other APEC members, five of which have expressed interest in membership.

### APEC Study Centre Consortium [\[ edit \]](#)

In 1993, APEC Leaders decided to establish a network of APEC Study Centres (APCs) among universities and research institutions in member economies. The purpose is to foster cooperation among tertiary and research institutes of member economies, thus having better academic collaboration on key regional economic challenges. To encourage independence from the APEC conference, the APCs are funded independently and choose their own research topics.<sup>[40]</sup>

As of December 2018, there are 70 APCs among the member economies. An annual conference is usually held in the host economy for that year.<sup>[40]</sup>

### APEC Business Advisory Council [\[ edit \]](#)

The APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) was created by the APEC Economic Leaders in November 1995 with the aim of providing advice to the APEC Economic Leaders on ways to achieve the Bogor Goals and other specific business sector priorities, and to provide the business perspective on specific areas of co-operation.<sup>[41][42]</sup>

Each economy nominates up to three members from the private sector to ABAC. These business leaders represent a wide range of industry sectors. ABAC provides an annual report to APEC Economic Leaders containing recommendations to improve the business and investment environment in the Asia-Pacific region, and outlining business views about priority regional issues. ABAC is also the only non-governmental organisation that is on the official agenda of the APEC Economic Leader's Meeting.<sup>[43]</sup>

### Annual APEC economic leaders' meetings [\[ edit \]](#)

Since its formation in 1989, APEC has held annual meetings with representatives from all member economies. The first four annual meetings were attended by ministerial-level officials. Beginning in 1993, the annual meetings are named APEC Economic Leaders' Meetings and are attended by the [heads of government](#) from all member economies except Taiwan, which is represented by a ministerial-level official. The annual Leaders' Meetings are not called summits.

#### Meeting developments [\[ edit \]](#)

In 1997, the APEC meeting was held in [Vancouver](#). Controversy arose after officers of the [Royal Canadian Mounted Police](#) used [pepper spray](#) against protesters. The protesters objected to the presence of [autocratic](#) leaders such as Indonesian president



Suharto.<sup>[44][45][46][47][48][49]</sup>

At the **2001 Leaders' Meeting** in Shanghai, APEC leaders pushed for a new round of trade negotiations and support for a program of trade capacity-building assistance, leading to the launch of the Doha Development Agenda a few weeks later. The meeting also endorsed the Shanghai Accord proposed by the United States, emphasising the implementation of open markets, structural reform, and **capacity building**. As part of the accord, the meeting committed to develop and implement APEC transparency standards, reduce trade **transaction costs** in the Asia-Pacific region by 5 percent over 5 years, and pursue **trade liberalisation** policies relating to information technology goods and services.

In 2003, **Jemaah Islamiah** leader **Riduan Isamuddin** had planned to attack the APEC Leaders Meeting to be held in **Bangkok** in October. He was captured in the city of **Ayutthaya**, Thailand by Thai police on 11 August 2003, before he could finish planning the attack.

Chile became the first South American nation to host the Leaders' Meeting in 2004. The agenda of that year was focused on terrorism and commerce, **small and medium enterprise** development, and contemplation of free agreements and regional trade agreements.

The 2005 Leaders' Meeting was held in **Busan**, South Korea. The meeting focused on the **Doha round** of **World Trade Organization** (WTO) negotiations, leading up to the **WTO Ministerial Conference of 2005** held in Hong Kong in December. Weeks earlier, trade negotiations in Paris were held between several WTO members, including the United States and the **European Union**, centred on reducing agricultural **trade barriers**. APEC leaders at the summit urged the European Union to agree to reduce **farm subsidies**. In a continuation of the climate information sharing initiative established by the APEC Climate Network working group, it was decided by the leaders to install the **APEC Climate Center** in **Busan**. Peaceful protests against APEC were staged in Busan, but the meeting schedule was not affected.

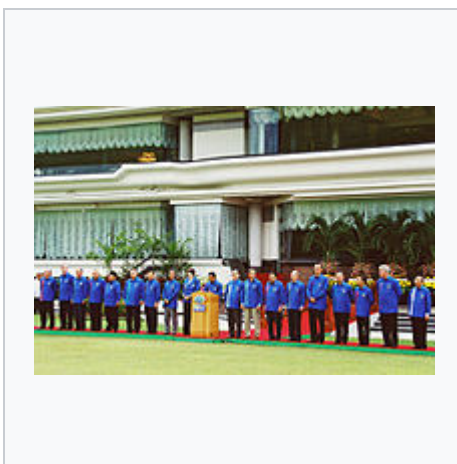
At the Leaders' Meeting held on 19 November 2006 in **Hanoi**, APEC leaders called for a new start to global free-trade negotiations while condemning terrorism and other threats to security. APEC also criticised North Korea for conducting a **nuclear test** and a **missile test launch** that year, urging the country to take "concrete and effective" steps toward **nuclear disarmament**. Concerns about **nuclear proliferation** in the region was discussed in addition to economic topics. The United States and Russia signed an agreement as part of Russia's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

The **APEC Australia 2007** Leaders' Meeting was held in Sydney from 2–9 September 2007. The political leaders agreed to an "aspirational goal" of a 25% reduction of energy intensity correlative with economic development.<sup>[50]</sup> Extreme security measures including airborne sharpshooters and extensive steel-and-concrete barricades were deployed against anticipated protesters and potential terrorists. However, protest activities were peaceful and the security envelope was penetrated with ease by a **spoof diplomatic motorcade** manned by members of the Australian television program *The Chaser*, one of whom was dressed to resemble the **Al-Qaeda** leader **Osama bin Laden**.

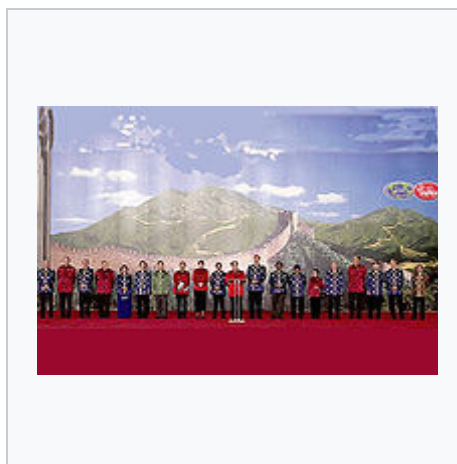
The **APEC Chile 2019**, originally to be held 16–17 November 2019 in **Chile**, was cancelled due to ongoing protests by sections of its population over inequality, the cost of living and police repression.<sup>[51]</sup>

#### APEC leaders' group photo [\[ edit \]](#)

At the end of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, the leaders gather for the official APEC Leaders' Family Photo. A tradition has the leaders dressing to reflect the culture of the host member. The tradition dates to the first such meeting in 1993 when then-U.S. President **Bill Clinton** insisted on informal attire and gave the leaders leather **bomber jackets**. At the 2010 meeting, Japan had the leaders dress in smart casual rather than the traditional **kimono**.<sup>[52]</sup> Similarly, when Honolulu was selected in 2009 as the site for the 2011 APEC meeting, U.S. President **Barack Obama** joked that he looked forward to seeing the leaders dressed in "flowered shirts and grass skirts". After viewing previous photos, and concerned that having the leaders dress in **aloha shirts** might give the wrong impression during a period of economic austerity, Obama instead decided it might be time to end the tradition. Leaders were given a specially designed aloha shirt as a gift but were not expected to wear it for the photo.<sup>[53]</sup> Leaders in Bali, Indonesia at the 2013 conference wore a batik outfit; in China 2014 Tang suit jackets; in the Philippines 2015 Barong Tagalogs; in Peru 2016 vicuna wool shawls; in 2017 Vietnamese silk shirts.<sup>[54]</sup>



APEC Brunei 2000



APEC China 2001



**APEC Thailand 2003**



**APEC Chile 2004**



**APEC South Korea 2005**



**APEC Vietnam 2006**



**APEC Australia 2007**



**APEC Peru 2008**



**APEC Singapore 2009**



**APEC Japan 2010**



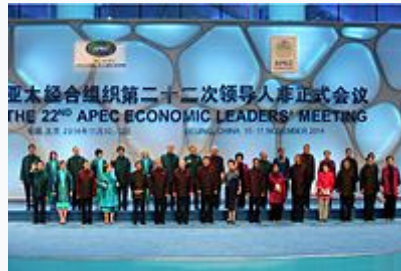
**APEC United States 2011**



**APEC Russia 2012**



**APEC Indonesia 2013**



**APEC China 2014**





APEC Philippines 2015



APEC Peru 2016



APEC Vietnam 2017



APEC Papua New Guinea 2018

## Criticism [\[ edit \]](#)

APEC has been criticised for promoting free trade agreements that would impose restrictions on national and local laws, which regulate and ensure labour rights, environmental protection and safe and affordable access to medicine.<sup>[55]</sup> According to the organisation, it is "the premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region" established to "further enhance economic growth and prosperity for the region and to strengthen the Asia-Pacific community".<sup>[56]</sup> The effectiveness and fairness of its role has been questioned, especially from the viewpoints of European countries that cannot take part in APEC<sup>[57]</sup> and Pacific Island nations that cannot participate but stand to be affected by its decisions.

## See also [\[ edit \]](#)

- [ASEAN Free Trade Area](#)
- [Asia-Europe Meeting](#)
- [Asia-Pacific Trade Agreements Database](#)
- [East Asia Economic Caucus](#)
- [East Asia Summit](#)
- [Pacific Alliance](#)
- [Pacific Economic Cooperation Council](#)
- [List of country groupings](#)
- [List of multilateral free-trade agreements](#)

Other organisations of coastal states

- [Bay of Bengal Initiative](#)
- [Black Sea Economic Cooperation](#)
- [Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation](#)
- [Union for the Mediterranean](#)

## Notes [\[ edit \]](#)

- <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Due to the complexities of [the relations](#) between it and the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China (ROC or "[Taiwan](#)") is not represented under its official name "Republic of China" or as "Taiwan". Instead, it participates in APEC under the name "[Chinese Taipei](#)". The [President of the Republic of China](#) cannot attend the annual APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in person. Instead, it is

generally represented by a ministerial-level official responsible for economic affairs or someone designated by the president. See [List of Chinese Taipei Representatives to APEC](#).

- b. <sup>^</sup> "As of January 2012 ASEAN countries have 186 FTAs implemented, signed, under negotiation or under proposal/study, which is substantial progress since... 1992. The **ASEAN+6** countries have a total of 339 FTAs, including between ASEAN countries and the '+6' countries."<sup>[34]</sup>
1. <sup>^</sup> The *de jure* head of government of China is the **Premier**, whose current holder is **Li Keqiang**. The **President of China** is legally a ceremonial office, but the **General Secretary of the Communist Party of China** (*de facto* leader in one-party communist state) has always held this office since 1993 except for the months of transition, and the current general secretary is President **Xi Jinping**.
2. <sup>^</sup> The *de jure* head of government of Vietnam is the **Prime Minister**, whose current holder is **Nguyễn Xuân Phúc**. The **President of Vietnam** is legally a ceremonial office, but the **General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam** (*de facto* leader in one-party communist state) has held this office since 2018, and the current general secretary is President **Nguyễn Phú Trọng**.

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3. <sup>^</sup> "PECC – Back to Canberra: Founding APEC" . pecc.org. Retrieved 12 November 2017. "ASEAN's series of post-ministerial consultations, launched in the mid-1980s, had demonstrated the feasibility and value of regular consultations among ministerial-level representatives of both developed and developing economies."
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6. <sup>^</sup> (PDF) [http://www.ncapec.org/docs/what\\_is\\_apec.pdf](http://www.ncapec.org/docs/what_is_apec.pdf) . "The APEC Secretariat is based in Singapore. The Secretariat is staffed by 20 diplomats seconded from APEC member economies and by 20 local staff." Missing or empty |title= (help)
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